

# Conservation Volunteer Opportunities Request for Information

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: \_\_\_\_\_

To view Missouri Department of Conservation locations statewide, visit [missouriconservation.org/volunteer](http://missouriconservation.org/volunteer)



Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, (573) 751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

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## Become a Conservation Volunteer



## Share your passion

What's your outdoor passion? Is it gardening? Bird-watching? Fishing and hunting? The only thing more fun than doing your favorite outdoor activity is sharing your passion for it with others. It's one reason why so many Missourians have become conservation volunteers. Some volunteers are able to work several hours a month, some only a few. You get to choose the level of commitment that works with your schedule, skills and interests.



## Feel the pride

Another reason people volunteer is the pride they feel when they become a vital part of one of the nation's most respected conservation departments, an agency dedicated to managing Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife resources. Volunteers work alongside conservation professionals, helping them do everything from teaching outdoor skills to monitoring forest health and greeting visitors.



## Enjoy the satisfaction

Once they've become conservation volunteers, many people never quit—and some actually go on to become conservation professionals. That's because they enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that their work makes a difference for Missouri's people and nature—today and for the future.



# Sampling of volunteer roles and responsibilities



## ■ Naturalist

This position requires the highest level of commitment. As a naturalist, you will receive a comprehensive training course in which you will learn safe animal handling and care, including feeding fish, reptiles and amphibians. Other topics include the basics of bird-watching and maintaining bird-feeding stations, maintaining butterfly gardens, and many other conservation-oriented activities.

After graduation, your main role will be to greet visitors and help them get the most out of their visit. You will perform such duties as answering questions and leading interpretive hikes through Missouri's forest, prairie, glade and aquatic habitats. Of course, you'll also be called on to help care for nature center animals and perform other maintenance and technical tasks.



Regular field enrichment opportunities provide a fun way to learn in the outdoor laboratory, and monthly meetings bring volunteer naturalists together to share experiences, ask questions and socialize.

## ■ Conservationist

Throughout the state, Department of Conservation offices have a variety of tasks and roles that require volunteer help. As a general volunteer, you may be asked to staff the reception desk, develop programs, help maintain the facility, perform office tasks or lead a special workshop. As with other volunteer positions, general volunteers are trained and appreciated as a valuable part of the conservation workforce.



## ■ Instructor

In this role, your job will be to help the Department teach people how to enjoy outdoor activities safely and successfully. Activities include hunting, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, bird-watching and many others.

The hunter education instructor training consists of ten hours of classroom work and ten hours as an apprentice under a lead instructor, and includes the following topics:

- Safe firearms use
- Hunting incidents
- Firearms and ammunition
- Hunting traditions and ethics
- The role of hunting in conservation management
- Safe hunting practices
- Hunters' responsibility to the resource and community

Qualifications and training for other outdoor skills instructors vary, so contact your Missouri Department of Conservation office of interest to learn what you can do to become a volunteer instructor.

*Request more information or visit [missouriconservation.org/volunteer](http://missouriconservation.org/volunteer) to explore conservation volunteer opportunities near you.*

## Many ways to get involved

Throughout the state, the Department of Conservation has nature centers, hatcheries, shooting ranges and outdoor education centers, and other programs and facilities that couldn't complete their missions without a corps of passionate, dedicated volunteers. Contact your local conservation facility (stamped on the back of this brochure) or visit [missouriconservation.org/volunteer](http://missouriconservation.org/volunteer) to find a volunteer opportunity that's a good match for your outdoor passion and skills.



## On-going training and support

Speaking of skills, you'll get plenty of opportunities to develop new ones. After you're "hired" as a volunteer, you'll begin an orientation program that will prepare you to work safely and successfully. Following initial training, regular training workshops will help you stay in top form as you serve the public, care for facilities and perform technical duties.



*Share your passion. Feel the pride. Enjoy the satisfaction.*